Back to School
From Ag Hill

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It's a special year for land-grant universities. We are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Act that established our education system. Throughout the year, land-grant universities nationwide will honor our successes and look forward to the challenges ahead.

Conquering those challenges will take innovation, ingenuity and energy. We are confident our college will continue to contribute to the body of science and service that will feed the world and protect the environment. Leading the charge is our faculty of fine scientists. Each year, the University of Georgia Research Foundation selects an Inventor of the Year. Seven of the last 12 honorees came from our faculty. Find out more about their outstanding work on page 4.

Our faculty and alumni continue to make a positive mark on the health and welfare of others through their dedication to our land-grant mission. You can read about how the next generation of world changers benefit from our Deans’ Promise study abroad program on page 14 and about how our faculty attracts new students by teaching innovative classes (page 12).

We also rely heavily on our faithful volunteers, who contribute so much as we work to provide strong, local Extension programs, especially for 4-H. Dedicated citizens are giving their time and talent to deliver programs, lead our young people and support our county Extension offices. You can read more about their efforts on page 16.

Congratulations to our faculty, students and alumni who have been honored this past year for their commitment to agriculture, their dedication to improving the lives of others and for extraordinary success in their careers. You can read about a few of these folks and their achievements starting on page 22.

These inventors, award winners and volunteers have built a strong foundation for agriculture. We are confident the students who now fill our classrooms will build on that foundation for a prosperous future.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Angle
Dean and Director
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

On the Cover

Wes Zwirn (BS – Ag Economics, ’00, MS – Ag Economics, ’02) traded in a career as a purchasing manager for a major seed company for a chance at going into the field of childcare. It turns out the road from a degree in ag econ to a job as a daycare administrator isn’t as winding as you’d expect.

Features

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Staring in 2000, the University of Georgia Research Foundation began naming one UGA faculty member the university’s Inventor of the Year. The honor is given annually based on an invention’s “originality, innovation and impact outside the university setting.” Over the past 12 years, seven College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences faculty members have received the award.

And the winners are …

### Michael Dirr
Professor of Horticulture (retired)

Mike Dirr introduced more than 100 new plants to the horticultural world during his nearly 30-year career as a CAES horticulture professor. His research on plant selection and breeding has resulted in the introduction of several commercially successful varieties, including the popular hydrangeas “Endless Summer,” “Blushing Bride” and “Twist-n-Shout.” Producing a new plant can take anywhere from five to 10 years and isn’t for the “instant gratification crowd,” Dirr said.

“I’ve thought I had great ideas and after making crosses and evaluating the offspring, discovered there was nothing of worth,” he said. “I’ve tried as long as 10 years with certain ideas … and have had more mishaps than successes.”

Those successes have been big, though, and resulted in approximately 20 patents through the UGA Research Foundation. Dirr has also authored more than 300 scientific and popular publications as well as more than a dozen books, including his most recent, *Dirr’s Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs*.

### Michael Doyle
Regents Professor and Director of the Center for Food Safety

### Tong Zhao
Assistant Research Scientist, Center for Food Safety

Mike Doyle and Tong Zhao spent more than a decade working to invent a wash that kills pathogens on foods faster and more effectively than any currently available food wash product. The food wash, which has been incorporated into FIT® Food and Vegetable Wash products, kills pathogens on fruits and vegetables one minute after application and can also be used to clean kitchen counters, cutting boards and food processing equipment in commercial settings. The wash also increases the shelf life of produce without affecting its appearance, flavor or color. Although the wash is many times more powerful on foods than commercially available chlorine-based antimicrobials, its components are generally regarded as safe by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the European Union food industry. It has been successfully tested against more than 30 different harmful microbes, including *E. coli O157*, *Salmonella*, *B. anthracis* and *Yersinia pestis*.

### Roger Boerma
Distinguished Research Professor of Crop and Soil Sciences and Director of the UGA Center for Soybean Improvement and UGA Center for Applied Genetic Technologies

Boerma has spent much of his career developing several superior transgenic and conventional soybean cultivars now widely grown across the country. His use of DNA marker-assisted selection shortened the breeding cycle for the development of new soybean cultivars by more than three years. The new cultivars have superior seed yield and resistance to multiple nematode and fungal disease species. The high-yielding Woodruff cultivar includes two new yield genes, which were discovered in a Japanese soybean accession and transferred into Woodruff using the DNA marker technology. The widespread use of Boerma’s improved cultivars has lowered the need for pesticides and increased seed yield, which has reduced production costs, provided greater profit per acre and created more sustainable production practices.

### Vasu Nair
Professor and Head, Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences

After decades of research, Nair helped bring HIV integrase inhibitors to the point where they could be licensed, thus providing a vital contribution to the field of HIV research.

### Robert Ivarie
Professor and Head, Department of Genetics

Ivarie invented and patented methods for genetically engineering chickens to produce proteins that have therapeutic potential for humans.

### Michael Adang
Professor of Entomology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Adang discovered Bt-Booster, a protein that enhances the effectiveness of the bacterium-cide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) and results in higher crop yields and lower environmental impact.
UGA Inventors of the Year

Continued from previous page

Wayne W. Hanes
Professor of Crop and Soil Sciences
Hanes developed and patented winter-hardy, pest-resistant Bermudagrasses able to withstand heavy traffic. Many of these grasses are now used on golf courses, football fields and soccer pitches around the world.

Chung K. "David" Chu
Distinguished Research Professor of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences
Chu developed pharmaceuticals to treat diseases such as HIV, leukemia, West Nile virus, smallpox and Hepatitis B. His work has resulted in more than 1,000 original compounds and 36 U.S. patents.

Steven L. Stice
Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar, Professor of Animal Reproductive Physiology
Stice has pioneered methods in the fields of cloning technology, transgenics and embryonic stem cell research. He introduced the world’s first cloned cattle, George and Charlie, in 1997, as well as KC, the first cow cloned from cells harvested from a carcass.

Richard B. Meagher
Professor of Genetics
Meagher was the first scientist to engineer plants to take up toxins from the soil, a field now known as phytoremediation. He is a leading authority on the plant cytoskeleton and monoclonal antibody production.

Lois K. Miller
Distinguished Research Professor of Genetics and Entomology
Miller was nominated posthumously for her research on the molecular genetics of insect vectors and her work using these vectors in environmentally friendly ways to control pests of agricultural crops.


Wayne W. Hanes
Distinguished Research Professor of Small Animal Medicine
Ritchie is internationally recognized for his contributions to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases in carnivores and exotic animal species.

Richard B. Meagher
Professor of Genetics
Meagher was the first scientist to engineer plants to take up toxins from the soil, a field now known as phytoremediation. He is a leading authority on the plant cytoskeleton and monoclonal antibody production.

BACK TO SCHOOL
AG ECONOMICS GRAD TAKES A LEADING ROLE AT NEW UNIVERSITY CHILDCARE CENTER

Furniture was shrouded in plastic, and construction crews swarmed around the former Navy School building as the opening day for the new University of Georgia University Childcare Center neared.

Wes Zwirn was in the mix of things, meeting with architects, preparing for the upcoming state licensing date and answering questions right and left.

Pulling plastic wrap off a chair in the director’s office, he settled down for a few minutes to talk about how he reached this point in his life.

Continued on next page
“Two and a half years ago, I had no idea where we’d be,” he said, leaning back in the chair. “We’ve worked really hard, and we’ve had a lot of luck.”

After earning two degrees in agricultural economics (BS – Ag Economics, ’00, MS – Ag Economics, ’02) and working as a purchasing manager for Pennington Seed based in Madison, Ga., Zwirn was ready for business — the business of childcare.

The career path from ag economics to childcare seems a curious one, causing a sort of mental double take, but after seven years, Zwirn was ready to part ways with the agricultural aspect of business.

Today, Zwirn, via Prodigies Child Care Management LLC, serves as the administrator and interim assistant director for the newly opened University Childcare Center (UCC) on UGA’s new Health Sciences Campus. He handles the business and hospitality-type services, and director Nadia Perez is responsible for the center’s educational administration.

“I have a knack for business and people and can hold my own when it comes to childcare, but Nadia is the real expert,” he said. “We want parents to feel like we’re anticipating their needs and providing great customer service.”

Ultimately, they’re committed to helping young children develop a love of learning and curiosity about the world.

Ag Economics Translates into Small Business

Whenever Zwirn visited his grandparents, there was corn as far as he could see. They lived in Iowa, where both his parents grew up, and “there was just corn everywhere,” he said.

Although he grew up in Lilburn, Ga. (not exactly an agricultural hub), his family’s roots in a farming community and his own interest in economics led Zwirn down the path of agricultural economics.

“I knew that agriculture and economics interested me,” he said. “In ag economics I saw them paired together, and that’s a concept we talked about daily in class. The economics aspect was great for me. You can apply that to whatever product, whether it’s agriculture or people.”

The experience he gained at Pennington Seed taught him a lot about the practical side of business, Zwirn said. “It was an agricultural company, but I was looking at things like profit and loss statements,” he said. Several years into the job, Zwirn realized he wanted something different.

“The part I grew to miss was dealing with people,” he admitted. “My dad’s in hospitality and I grew up with that.”

James Epperson, a CAES agricultural economics professor, recalled that trait in Zwirn.

“He had a lot of people skills and was very likable,” Epperson said.

And while he was surprised by Zwirn’s transition from agriculture to childcare, he agrees, “running a business is running a business.”

He also noted that as a student Zwirn had been “somewhat bold.” For example, Zwirn decided to attend the University of Wyoming for a semester — not something most students would do.

That bold streak continued, and a couple of years ago Zwirn and his wife talked it over and decided to start their own business. Childcare was a field neither of them knew much about at the time.

“We want parents to feel like we’re anticipating their needs and providing great customer service.”

~ Wes Zwirn
Administrator and Interim Assistant Director
University Childcare Center

Zwirn might be an administrator, but he often spends more time away from his desk than behind it. Between updating the UCC’s website, answering the phone and greeting families, he also helps keep the center running smoothly by cooking, washing dishes, planning the weekly menu, shopping for groceries, mopping and sweeping, taking out the trash and even cleaning windows.
“We always heard that Athens needs quality childcare,” Zwirn said. As the couple discussed their options, Jennifer, who is a manager at SunTrust Bank in Athens, learned that her assistant manager’s wife had worked in childcare for years. The daydreams started to take shape, the plans unfolded and Little Prodigies opened in Athens, Ga., in 2009 as the Zwirns were expecting their first child. The childcare center focuses on incorporating the arts into everyday learning, and that assistant manager’s wife, Kathy Ashley, is now the director.

Ashley said Zwirn is a “people person” and great to work with. She also pointed out his high level of motivation and energy.

“That’s just everyday life with him,” she said.

The Zwirns now have two children, Connor, almost 3, and Emmie, who is 6 months old. Both attend Little Prodigies.

“Because we have children this age, it helps us to know what parents are looking for,” Zwirn said.

University Childcare Center

The UCC, located at 111 Bowstrom Road, is the first building to be renovated and in use on UGA’s new Health Sciences Campus.

The center has 13 classes and can house up to 146 children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 4 years. Like Little Prodigies and UGA’s McPhaul Center – which has an enrollment waiting list – UCC will follow the Creative Curriculum, which Ashley describes as a nationally-known curriculum that’s parent-friendly.

UCC has a student-teacher ratio of four to one in the infant, crawler and 1-year-old classrooms, six to one for 2-year-olds and seven to one for the 3- and 4-year-olds. As of its opening week, the center had 60 children enrolled.

The UCC resulted from an effort involving faculty and staff over a number of years, explained Tom Gausvik, associate vice president for human resources at UGA, who oversees the university’s bid process.

“Once the tours were over, Zwirn spoke about being involved in the project from the beginning,” Zwirn said. “A lot of Little Prodigies clients are UGA people, so we know what they need and their schedules.”

In August 2011, Zwirn and the management company got a contract for two and a half years, with an option to renew.

“My impressions of Wes have been very positive,” Gausvik said. “My staff and I have enjoyed a very good relationship with him throughout the construction and startup of the center.”

As with Little Prodigies, Zwirn relies on experienced educators and childcare professionals, such as director Perez.

“She’s a parent of young children and she’s got some great background experience,” he said.

Perez relocated with her family to Georgia from Michigan, where she had initially worked at Michigan State University’s child development laboratory as a child development specialist and later as an instructor in childcare administration. She also spent time in Beijing, China as a principal at 3e International School, a collaboration between Michigan State University and the Sun Wah Foundation.

“So far it seems like we are going to be a pretty good fit,” she said of working with Zwirn. “We’ve worked very hard to get everything set up and the center looks amazing. I’m encouraging people to come and check it out.”

Gausvik also noted the pair’s commitment to the center’s success.

“One of the goals was to hire experienced and caring teachers, and that’s what we were able to do,” he said. “Every detail of the building and grounds was designed to provide a safe and fun environment for the children. We realize the success of the center will ultimately be determined by the children and parents served by the UCC teachers and staff, who are dedicated to delivering the highest quality childcare experience.”

With a knowledgeable team in place and Zwirn’s business background and commitment to creating a positive learning environment, the UCC is looking forward to making 2012 a year of growth and learning for many UGA families.
By Amanda E. Swennes

“I want to teach students that we live and breathe horticulture all the time, we just don’t think about it. Horticulture touches everything from our environment to the food we eat.” — David Berle, CAES Professor of Horticulture

“It’s required, but the vast majority are taking this class because they choose to,” he said. Over the years, he’s taught students from just about every college and major on campus and has managed to convert a few to horticulture along the way.

“Want to teach students that we live and breathe horticulture all the time, we just don’t think about it,” Berle said. “Horticulture touches everything from our environment to the food we eat.”

Getting that message across is part of the reason for the projects he assigns. For the horticulture potluck, for example, each student makes a dish using a horticultural crop. It can be a fruit, vegetable, herb or nut (coffee and chocolate count!). The student dishes are consumed by their classmates and judged (using a horticultural crop. It can be a fruit, vegetable, herb or nut (coffee and chocolate count!). The student dishes are consumed by their classmates and judged (using a horticultural crop. It can be a fruit, vegetable, herb or nut (coffee and chocolate count!). The student dishes are consumed by their classmates and judged (using a horticultural crop. It can be a fruit, vegetable, herb or nut (coffee and chocolate count!). The student dishes are consumed by their classmates and judged (using a horticultural crop. It can be a fruit, vegetable, herb or nut (coffee and chocolate count!). The student dishes are consumed by their classmates and judged (using a horticultural crop. It can be a
Opening Doors and Minds
Study Abroad furthers life skills of CAES students

By Robin Pratt

For students in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, learning is not limited to classrooms or textbooks. Thanks to the college’s Deans’ Promise, which began in 2006, students can enhance their education through real-world experiences such as service-learning and research projects, internships and study-abroad opportunities.

“We are one of the few colleges at UGA that provides funding for these kinds of activities,” said Carolina Robinson, the program coordinator for the CAES study-abroad program. “This is important because this kind of support from our administration helps recruit the best students to our college — the kind that will be leaders in their fields.”

In 2010, 30 of these future leaders received $500 scholarships to study abroad through the Deans’ Promise.

Home Away from Home: Laura Ney

Laura Ney would probably be right at home almost anywhere, but this outgoing, curious horticulture major found her second family somewhere she never expected — on a small farm in Costa Rica. Ney used Deans’ Promise funding to study abroad at the UGA campus in Costa Rica. Her experience influenced the rest of her academic career at UGA and her plans for her future.

Laura Ney

“Before studying abroad, Adeyemi said, “I was taking the Food and Hunger class with Dr. Maria Navarro, and knew I wanted to do something ag-related.” Ney said. The UGA Costa Rica campus staff suggested she talk to Don Otoniel, the facility’s farm manager. Before she

“I wanted to do something beneficial when I returned, and I knew I could apply what I learned in my CAES classes to the farm. If you think about it, it was my first experience as a UGA Extension agent!”

~ Laura Ney
Senior Horticulture

This self-confidence helped Ney apply for and receive UGA’s Honors International Scholars scholarship. The scholarship not only paid for her return to Costa Rica in 2010, but also for an organic weed control study on Otoniel’s farm.

“I wanted to do something beneficial when I returned, and I knew I could apply what I learned in my CAES classes to the farm,” Ney said. “If you think about it, it was my first experience as a UGA Extension agent!”

Ney advises other students to find opportunities — like study abroad — that will push them beyond their comfort zones. She says that whatever form her career takes, whether it’s a UGA Cooperative Extension career in Georgia or outreach abroad, her Deans’ Promise experience helped her gain the skills and independence to travel and work anywhere, and to make any place “home.”

Speaking the Language of Success: Paul Adeyemi

Paul Adeyemi, a fifth-year CAES senior, knew he liked building things. His long-standing interest in tinkering combined with his analytical and math abilities made a major in agricultural engineering seem like a natural fit. What he couldn’t predict was how much he’d enjoy using his Spanish language skills in his work, too. It took a CAES-organized study abroad trip to find that out.

In 2010, Adeyemi spent two months at the Aula Dei Campus Research Center in Zaragoza, Spain, clarifying what he wanted to do and his strengths.

His long-standing interest in tinkering and showing his Spanish language skills in his work, too. It took a CAES-organized study abroad trip to find that out.

In 2010, Adeyemi spent two months at the Aula Dei Campus Research Center in Zaragoza, Spain, clarifying what he wanted to do and his strengths.

Before studying abroad, Adeyemi found the textbook concepts difficult to understand because they were abstract.

“Perhaps even more importantly, his experience helped bring his future into focus.”

“I had free rein to make things at the research facility, and I was glad for that chance,” he said. “It made me realize that I don’t want to work in a fabrication shop. I want a career where I can use my Spanish to help people. The study abroad experience helped refine my options and showed me what I’d really be happy doing.”

Adeyemi is currently finishing his degree and using his Spanish to help students and their families through his job with student housing. He hopes to use the connections he made during his study abroad trip to find work in Spain after graduating, perhaps teaching English.
Helping Hearts, Helping Hands: 4-H volunteers give back

They chaperone giggling campers, tube down rivers with middle school students and teach teens and preteens about gun safety and marksmanship.

Last year more than 24,000 adults donated their time and talents to support the Georgia 4-H program. These adult volunteers are especially vital now, as funding for state programs has been drastically reduced.

Throughout Georgia, almost 100 University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agents deliver the youth program to more than 170,000 young people. Georgia 4-H State Leader Arch Smith would like to provide increased volunteer training in order to expand the leadership roles volunteers assume.

“Our shooting sports program is a great example of the direction we’re headed. It is one of our fastest growing programs and it is totally volunteer-led,” Smith said.

Volunteers who have completed a certification program lead the Shooting Awareness, Fun and Education (SAFE) program. The state-level shooting sports contest used to involve about 400 participants competing in a single weekend event at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Now it takes six weekends to complete the state contests, which attract more than 3,000 competitors in a variety of disciplines.

Smith would like to eventually see certified volunteers working with 4-H horse and livestock events, coaching other judging teams and leading clubs.

“Volunteering is very much a part of our culture and Georgia 4-H relies heavily on the work of volunteers every day,” said Jenny Jordan, coordinator of the 4-H volunteer program. “A 4-H volunteer may coordinate a 4-H fundraiser, volunteer in an Extension office, help a 4-H’er prepare a project, chaperone at summer camp, mentor a 4-H’er at their livestock show or coach a judging team.”

Parents are Volunteers, Too

Georgia 4-H is filled with stories of volunteers who touch the lives of 4-H’ers.

In Newton County, Doug and Elaine Kimble began volunteering when their children were 4-H’ers and haven’t stopped since. “It’s easier to give time than money sometimes,” said Elaine Kimble. “But it’s also a way to be closer to your kids. We kept volunteering because we enjoy it, and we have built our own family in 4-H.”

The Kimbles have volunteered with 12 agents and educators in Newton County. They also serve as fundraising chairs for the Georgia 4-H Volunteer Leader Association. They have cooked at the Hard Rock Cafe at Fall Forum for 16 years and have served at least 3,000 pizzas at state 4-H events.

“Mr. Doug and Mrs. Elaine have been to almost everything with me since my freshman year and a lot before that, too,” said Newton County 4-H’er Ken Galloway.

Giving Time and Talents

Each volunteer brings a particular talent to 4-H.

Douglas County volunteer and Arby’s research and development chef Jenn Townsend takes 4-H’ers on behind-the-scenes tours to see the corporate side of the business. “I want them to see that there is more to Arby’s than the person who takes their order and hands them their food,” she said. A former Clayton County 4-H’er, Townsend “got hooked on 4-H early and never looked back.” She volunteered as a Collegiate 4-H’er and camp counselor and then worked as a program assistant in the Oconee County Extension office.

“Before I knew it college was over and I was considered an adult volunteer,” she said.

Townsend is now “triple involved” as the mother of two 4-H’ers, president of the Georgia 4-H Camp Counselor Alumni Association and a member of the Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee.

As a volunteer, she helps students prepare for Project Achievement by listening to their speeches and helping them

“A volunteer isn’t always someone who works directly with children. We rely on volunteers to support our programs behind the scenes, too.”

– Arch Smith, Georgia 4-H State Leader
Working with only one youth may seem like a small thing, but it can make a world of difference for that young person. “I know how important it is to have volunteers because I’ve been on the other side of the fence. There is maybe one paid agent to 750 youth,” said Finney, who previously worked as a University of Georgia Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H agent in Newton County.

Bus driver Dianna Galloway donates her driving skills to save her county thousands of dollars in transportation costs. She drives to camps and conferences and recruits other drivers to help, too. “The more people that volunteer, the more the kids get to do,” Galloway said.

She also enjoys what she calls the 4-H fringe benefits. “You get to do the stuff the kids get to do, so I’ve done the zip line and flying squirrel, searched for crabs in the marsh, swam on the beach, played in the creek, gone tubing and even enjoyed a dolphin cruise.”

Below far left: Brian Whitley, a certified rifle coach, is just one of the hundreds of volunteers that donate their time each year to the Georgia 4-H program. Whitley is shown competing in a coaches shoot with assistance from his daughter Danielle Whitley and Hannah Leggett. Below left: 4-H camper Cameron Howell and counselor Ryan Langeman during archery at Rock Eagle, June 16, 2005. Below right: Oconee County 4-H Garden Earth Naturalist Workshop. Below far right: Camp Wahsega Military Youth Camp, July 2011.
**1960s**

**Thomas Armstrong**  
(BS – Agriculture, ’66) is retired from Monsanto and lives in Rolla, Mo.

**Will Harris**  
(BSA – Animal Science, ’76) of White Oak Pastures in Bluffton, Ga., received a $300,000 USDA Value-Added Producer Grant for its pasture production. He spent $1.5 million building one of the only pastured poultry abattoirs, or slaughterhouses, in the South. Not only does Harris’s fifth generation farm invest in sustainable animal welfare and land usage practices, but it also invests in the economic sustainability of its community, currently providing 75 jobs and serving as the largest privately owned employer in Clay County.

**Steve Morgan**  
(BSA – Ag Economics, ’90, MS – Ag Economics, ’92) works with SunTrust Investment Services as a Financial Advisor, CRPC. He served chairman of the board for the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce in 2011.

**Keith Johnson**  
(BSA – Ag Economics, ’91) is the director of human resources for Jackson EMC. He finished an MBA from Brenau in February 2012 and is currently serving as chair of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce in Jefferson, Ga.

**Shannon Johnson**  
(BS – Horticulture, ’95) is the vice president of Horticultural Services Inc. and之間 wholesale landscaping equipment and supplies company in Hilton Head, S.C.

**Bo Warren**  
(BSA – Agronomy, ’81) has joined the Georgia Department of Agriculture to create a business development program in order to assist producers and ag-related businesses in promoting Georgia-grown products and expand agriculture’s $60 billion economic impact in the state. The division will include international trade, local business development and agitourism and will aid in connecting ag-related businesses to Georgia’s existing economic development infrastructure and programs.

**Joe Fleming**  
(BSA – Ag Economics, ’97) is the assistant manager of Phillips Van Heusen and lives in Denver, Co.

**Scott Monfort**  
(BSA – Plant Protection and Pest Management, ’89, MS – Plant Pathology, ’92) is the new South Carolina peanut specialist at Clemson University’s Edisto Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Blackville, S.C.

**Josh Gill**  
(BSA – Environmental Economics, ’01, MS – Environmental Economics, ’04) is a program analyst for USDA in the Foreign Agricultural Services division and lives in Silver Spring, Md.

**Will Peoples**  
(BSA – Ag Economics, ’04) is a commercial insurance agent for Insurance Office of America. He and his wife, Kingsley, live in Gainesville, Ga.

**Stephanie Beard VanDyck**  
(BSA – Ag Communications, ’07, MPH – ’09) is one of two managing directors for Two Maids & A Mop in Gainesville, Ga. CWT is dedicated to the production of high standard broiler hatching eggs for customers all over the world.

**Stephanie VanDyck**  
(BSA – Ag Communications, ’07, MPH – ’09) is an editor at agriculture management firm providing administrative coordination, meeting planning, trade show management, financial accounting, communication services and legislative monitoring. ASG is the only Georgia-based company, and one of only 68 association management companies in the U.S., to have received AMC accreditation by the AMC Institute.

Find us on Facebook and become a friend of the UCA CAES Alumni Association. Search “Ag Alum.”

**1970s**

**Charles T. Hall**  
(BSA – Horticulture, ’72, MS – Horticulture, ’74), president and CEO of the Association Services Group of LaGrange, Ga., and executive director of the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, received the Clifford M. Clarke Award, the Georgia Society of Association Executives’ highest level of recognition. This award is given based on exemplary personal leadership and service to the recipient’s own association, the association community and the general community. Association Services Group (ASG) is a multi-association management firm providing administrative coordination, meeting planning, trade show management, financial accounting, communication services and legislative monitoring. ASG is the only Georgia-based company, and one of only 68 association management companies in the U.S., to have received AMC accreditation by the AMC Institute.

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**1980s**

**Chipzie Asahakata**  
(BSA – Agriculture, ’81) was appointed vice chancellor of Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria in 2011.

**Laura Meadows**  
(BSA – Food Science, ’81) was appointed director of UGA’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government in Jefferson, Ga.

**Kristen McFarland**  
(BS – Biotechnology, ‘80, dVM ‘83) is a sales representative for Dow AgroSciences. She and Zachary Murphy, (BSA – Animal Science, ’10) were married on July 30, 2011. Zach is a loan officer for AgGeorgia Farm Credit in Chattooga, Ga. They reside in Cleveland, Tenn.

**Whitney Murphy**  
(Kizer)  
(BSA – Animal Science, ’10) is a sales representative for Dow AgroSciences. She and Zachary Murphy, (BSA – Ag Business, ’10) were married on July 30, 2011. Zach is a loan officer for AgGeorgia Farm Credit in Chattooga, Ga. They reside in Cleveland, Tenn.

**Carrie Lynn Fowler**  
(Presley)  
(MS – Environmental Economics, ’01) is a program specialist for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, ‘98, MS – Plant Pathology, ’92) is the new South Carolina peanut specialist at Clemson University’s Edisto Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Blackville, S.C.

**Josh Gill**  
(BSA – Environmental Economics, ’01, MS – Environmental Economics, ’04) is a program analyst for USDA in the Foreign Agricultural Services division and lives in Silver Spring, Md.

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**Stephanie VanDyck**  
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Find us on Facebook and become a friend of the UCA CAES Alumni Association. Search “Ag Alum.”

**1990s**

**Scott Monfort**  
(BSA – Plant Protection and Pest Management, ’89, MS – Plant Pathology, ’92) is the new South Carolina peanut specialist at Clemson University’s Edisto Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Blackville, S.C. Monfort began his career in southwest Georgia where he worked for former Georgia cooperative GoldKist. He then joined University of Georgia Cooperative Extension in Worth County, Ga. His work with UGA Extension influenced his decision to earn his master’s degree in peanut disease management along-time UGA plant pathologist Albert Culbreath. After completing his degree, Monfort worked for five years as a state plant pathologist in Arkansas.

**Kristen McFarland**  
(BS – Biotechnology, ‘80, dVM ‘83) has been working as a small-animal relief veterinarian in the Atlanta area with McFarland Veterinary Services, LLC since 2008. She and her husband, Mike, have a daughter and a son and live in Suwanee.

**Joe Tucker**  
(BSA – Ag Communication, ‘99, MS – NPO, ’11) was named director of annual giving for UGA’s Terry College of Business. Tucker previously served as a development officer for CAES from 2007-2011.

**2000s**

**Carrie Lynn Fowler**  
(Presley)  
(MS – Environmental Economics, ’01) is a program specialist for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, ‘98, MS – Plant Pathology, ’92) is the new South Carolina peanut specialist at Clemson University’s Edisto Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Blackville, S.C.

**Josh Gill**  
(BSA – Environmental Economics, ’01, MS – Environmental Economics, ’04) is a program analyst for USDA in the Foreign Agricultural Services division and lives in Silver Spring, Md.

**Will Peoples**  
(BSA – Ag Economics, ’04) is a commercial insurance agent for Insurance Office of America. He and his wife, Kingsley, live in Gainesville, Ga.

**Stephanie Beard VanDyck**  
(BSA – Ag Communications, ’07, MPH – ’09) is one of two managing directors for Two Maids & A Mop in Gainesville, Ga. CWT is dedicated to the production of high standard broiler hatching eggs for customers all over the world.

**Stephanie VanDyck**  
(BSA – Ag Communications, ’07, MPH – ’09) is an editor at agriculture management firm providing administrative coordination, meeting planning, trade show management, financial accounting, communication services and legislative monitoring. ASG is the only Georgia-based company, and one of only 68 association management companies in the U.S., to have received AMC accreditation by the AMC Institute.

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**2010s**

**Whitney Murphy**  
(Kizer)  
(BSA – Animal Science, ’10) is a sales representative for Dow AgroSciences. She and Zachary Murphy, (BSA – Ag Business, ’10) were married on July 30, 2011. Zach is a loan officer for AgGeorgia Farm Credit in Chattooga, Ga. They reside in Cleveland, Tenn.

**Find us on Facebook and become a friend of the UCA CAES Alumni Association. Search “Ag Alum.”**

**A BARK GOES OUT TO ...**

By Stephanie Schupska and Amanda E. Swennes

Six alumni from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences were honored as Bulldog 100: Fastest Growing Bulldog Businesses on Jan. 21, 2012 at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta. The Bulldog 100 ranks the businesses based on their average three-year growth rate, regardless of company size.

2012 winners who graduated from CAES (and their rankings) were:

#1: **Will Harris**  
(BSA ’76)  
White Oak Pastures  
Bluffton, Ga.  
whiteoakpastures.com

#2: **Edward Reid Pinson**  
(BSA ’89, DVM ’93)  
North Oconee Animal Hospital  
Bogart, Ga.  
www.northisanimalhospital.com

#5: **Charles T. Hall**  
(BSA ’72, BS ’74)  
Association Services Group  
LaGrange, Ga.  
www.associationservicesgroup.net

#7: **Ron Holt**  
(BSA ’97)  
Two Maids & A Mop  
Birmingham, Ala.  
www.twomaidsbirmingham.com

#10: **Jim Moore**  
(BSA ’78, JD ’81)  
Moor, Clarke, DuVall and Rodgers, P.C.  
Albany, Ga.  
www.mcdlaw.com

Winning businesses must have been in operation for at least five years, be owned or operated by a UGA alumnus and had a yearly revenue of more than $100,000 for 2009. For more information and to see all 100 winners, visit: www.uga.edu/alumni/bulldog100

To include your professional class notes in the next issue of Southscares, please e-mail bulb@uga.edu, or call (706) 542-3390.
HANNA, SUTHERLAND NAMED TO GEORGIA AG HALL OF FAME

By Juli Fields

Wayne Hanna and Gene Sutherland were inducted into the Georgia Ag Hall of Fame during a ceremony on September 17, 2011. The Hall of Fame is a program of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences that recognizes individuals who have made unusual or extraordinary contributions to agriculture and agribusiness industries in Georgia.

WAYNE HANNA

Since 1971, Wayne Hanna, a CAES professor of crop and soil sciences, has made an incredible impact on the forage, grain and turfgrass industries as a turfgrass scientist. The economic and social impact of his releases of new, superior grasses for forage, golf greens and fairways, athletic fields, parks and homes is immeasurable.

Hanna developed TifSport for golf fairways, athletic fields and landscaping and TifTagle for golf greens. Attributes of these superior cultivars include limited need for pesticide use, reduced athletic performance impact on the turf, and their resilience to cool temperatures.

Since 1971, Hanna has released 12 turf and forage cultivars, and 17 parental or germplasm lines have brought significant recognition to Georgia. He is a regular speaker on turf cultivars and management at state, regional and national golf and turf manager and grower meetings.

Hanna was named 2003 Inventor of the Year by the University of Georgia Research Foundation (see story on page 4) and has been awarded the C. Reed Funk Achievement Award from the National Turfgrass Breeders Association, the Distinguished Service Award from the Georgia Crop Improvement Association and the Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award from the Crop Science Society of America.

Hanna serves his community through Boy Scout Troop No. 62 and is an advisor and mentor to junior high and high school students on science and 4-H projects in various school systems. He and his wife, Barbara, have two children and four grandchildren.

JAMES EUGENE (GENE) SUTHERLAND

As chairman of the board of Sutherland’s Food Service Inc., Gene Sutherland has aided the welfare of agriculture by marketing more than 5,000 wholesale food products to Georgia consumers. The family-operated company has been recognized in “The Atlanta 100,” which honors Atlanta’s top privately owned companies. Sutherland is also part owner-franchisee of Eggland’s Best, Inc., and he runs a 525-acre commercial broad cow/calf operation with 125 head in Meriwether County. He also owns 205- and 300-acre hay operations in Spalding and Coweta counties, respectively, and a timber and row crop leasing operation on 2,400 acres in Telfair County.

At one time, Sutherland was the largest egg producer in Georgia. He served as director of the Georgia Poultry Federation from 1971 to 1983 and held the positions of president and vice president from 1979 to 1981. He was director of the Georgia Egg Association from 1976 to 1994, serving as president in 1994. He was chairman of the board for the National Egg Company from 1982 to 1985 and director of the Georgia Poultry Improvement Association in 2001.

Since the founding of the Georgia National Fair, Sutherland has served on the Agricultural Exposition Authority, first appointed to the position by Governor Joe Frank Harris. From 1981 to 1985, he served on the Board of Industry and Trade for Georgia. Since 1984 he has served as a director of the Georgia Agribusiness Council and was Chairman of the Board from 1989 to 1990.

Sutherland is a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Varath Shrine Temple. He serves on the governing boards for both Woodward Academy and Piedmont College.

He’s been married to his wife, Joan, for 56 years. They have four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Sutherland and his family are active at the First Christian Church of Stockbridge, Ga.

2011 CAES Alumni Awards

By Juli Fields

CAES Alumni Association Young Alumni Achievement Award

The CAES Alumni Association Young Alumni Achievement Award recognizes College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences alumni who are 35 years old or younger and have achieved excellence in their chosen field and/or in their community.

Joel McKee (BSA ’05 – Agribusiness, JD ’08) practices law at the Atlanta office of Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C., where he leads the firm’s agriculture practice group, handling complex legal issues on behalf of farmers, agribusinesses, distributors, brokers and food retailers. He also works as part of the firm’s environmental, mass torts and land use practice group, where he provides legal opinions regarding surface and groundwater withdrawal permit compliance. In August 2010, he was listed as one of the “Movers and Shakers in the Agribusiness Industry,” by Georgia Trend magazine.

Christy Cromley Seyfert (BSA ’98 – Food Science) is vice president of the government-relations firm Michael Torrey Associates in Washington, D.C. Seyfert’s clients include the Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Snack Food Association, Options Clearing Corporation, Dean Foods and DuPont. She spent 13 years on Capitol Hill working in various leadership roles with Congresswoman Sandy Chambliss, Larry Combest, Max Burns and Bob Goodlatte.

Polly Ligon O’Grady (BSA ’87 – Agricultural Journalism) works as a public relations coordinator for Weber Shandwick, where she helped form and now leads the Farm and Food Advocacy Group. Working with Dairy Management Inc., she helped launch the myDairy advocate program, which encourages dairy farmers to connect with consumers via social media. Since 2002, she has worked with DMI to prepare for crisis situations such as a U.S. outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, outbreaks of food-borne illnesses linked to dairy products, and terrorist attacks impacting the dairy industry.

Lucy Reid (BSA ’82 – Experimental Foods, MS ‘94 – Food Science) is the director of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs for Coca-Cola in Atlanta. She provides scientific and regulatory oversight for products sold in the U.S., leads programs to ensure regulatory compliance of products, influences the innovation of new products, provides direction in shaping food regulations and represents Coca-Cola in external industry groups. A career point of pride for Reid is her work to gain food additive approval from the FDA to add vitamin D to calcium-fortified juices and juice drinks. Reid also serves on the 2011-2012 CAES Advisory Council.

Arch Daniel Smith, II (BSA ’77 – Ag Economics) is the state 4-H leader for Georgia, where he is responsible for the University of Georgia 4-H Program. Georgia 4-H serves more than 170,000 young people across the state. In addition, he is responsible for the staff training for 4-H agents, program assistants and volunteers across Georgia and for all personnel and budget issues concerning the state 4-H office, the state’s five 4-H centers and the Georgia 4-H Foundation.

James Tyrone Spearman (BSA ’67 – Agricultural Journalism, MS ’69 – Poultry Science) is CEO and president of Spearman Marketing and Advertising Agency. His agency assists more than 20 clients in marketing and promotions, and specializes in newsletters, association management, radio, television, newspapers and brochures as well as video production and marketing strategies. Spearman served as director of public relations for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College from 1969 to 1976 and executive director of the Georgia Peanut Commission from 1976 to 1986.
ROCK EAGLE REBUILDS CABINS

By Sharon Dowdy

Former 4-H’ers who bunk at Rock Eagle for camp may find themselves feeling a little jealous of the newest generation of 4-H campers who get to enjoy “camping” in new cabins being built at the facility.

The new cabins can accommodate 22 people in six rooms, each with a private bath. One of the bedrooms has two single beds and is designed as the adult chaperone room. The new design also includes a large common area, wireless Internet access and four vanity areas in each bedroom.

The original cabins had two dormitory-style bedrooms that slept eight people on four bunk beds. In order to preserve history, three of the original cabins at Rock Eagle will be maintained: one in the 1950s style, one in the 1980s style and one as a cabin museum.

THE REPLACEMENT COST FOR CABINS AT ROCK EAGLE IS $500,000, WHICH INCLUDES THE COST OF DEMOLISHING THE EXISTING CABIN, SITE WORK, LANDSCAPING AND UTILITY RELOCATION.

Rock Eagle now has four of the newly constructed cabins. The first was a prototype cabin that was completed in 2006. The second was the Georgia Development Authority cabin that honors longtime Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin. The third cabin was the Kroger Customers Cabin and the fourth was the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation Cabin.

“Replacing the cabins at Rock Eagle is not an easy task,” said Georgia State 4-H Leader Arch Smith. “We are 20 percent of the way there and we have five more new cabins under construction.”

Additional private funding has been received from the Andrews Family Foundation, Georgia 4-H Camp Counselor Alumni and many other individuals. Legislative appropriations will fund seven new cabins in 2012. All are expected to be dedicated at Fall Forum 2012.

The replacement cost for cabins at Rock Eagle is $500,000, which includes the cost of demolishing the existing cabin, site work, landscaping and utility relocation.

To contribute to the Rock Eagle 4-H Center Cabin Campaign, contact the Georgia 4-H Foundation Office at (706) 542-8914. Naming opportunities are available.

RODAGERS NAMED TO NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME

By Sharon Dowdy

athens, Ga., resident and longtime Georgia 4-H supporter Tom Rodgers was honored by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents and inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame Oct. 7, 2011, at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md.

Rodgers was an active Columbia County 4-H’er and mastered in beef records and livestock judging. As a student at the University of Georgia, he served as a 4-H camp counselor. He received a bachelor’s degree in animal science and a master’s degree in agricultural economics from UGA before earning a doctorate in education from North Carolina State University.

From 1979 to 1993, Rodgers served as Georgia state 4-H leader. Under his leadership, Georgia 4-H developed the environmental education program that has served more than 900,000 youth from Georgia and across the Southeast since 1979. He also helped acquire the Dolphin Hotel on Jekyll Island, which was converted into Georgia 4-H’s second coastal center.

To help save Rock Eagle 4-H Center from closing in the early ’80s, Rodgers solicited private gifts and legislative appropriations exceeding $2.2 million to renovate the center and construct the Rock Eagle Museum of Natural History. “Tom Rodgers charted a course for Georgia 4-H to continue its legacy of providing excellent youth development opportunities for young people and kept Georgia at the forefront of 4-H programming in the U.S.,” said Arch Smith, Georgia’s current 4-H leader.

“He has made outstanding contributions to Georgia 4-H and is one of only four Georgia Lifetime Achievement recipients. It is fitting that he be selected for induction in the National 4-H Hall of Fame.”

Honorees are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents or 4-H Headquarters based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

For more information about the National 4-H Hall of Fame, visit www.nae4ha.com/hof.

LEARNING TO LEAD

By Rochelle Strickland and Amanda E. Swennes

Advancing Georgia’s Leaders in Agriculture is a new, two-year adult leadership development program for individuals involved in Georgia’s agriculture and natural resources industries. Formerly known as Georgia Agri-Leaders, the new AGLA program will enroll its first class this fall as part of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication.

The program will focus on personal development, understanding issues both directly and indirectly related to agriculture in Georgia, and how individuals can become more effective in influencing policy, sharing their stories and being strong advocates for Georgia’s agriculture and natural resources industries.

“Developing leaders for the industry is and continues to be important for the success of the industry as a whole,” said Rochelle Strickland, director of the new AGLA program. “Without an agricultural leadership program in place, the industry is left with the challenges of coming together on issues, understanding how each of the sectors are related to and can benefit from one another, and establishing positive relationships throughout the state and nation.”

The nomination and application process is currently underway and will close in mid-July. Candidate interviews will be held in August and the first class will be announced in September. Tuition is $3,500 and covers one-third of the cost per participant; the remainder of the program is funded through donations and sponsorships.

For more information or to nominate someone for the inaugural class, contact Rochelle Strickland at rstrick@uga.edu or (706) 542-2124. Potential applicants should be a minimum of 25 years of age.
CAES NOTES

TRAINING TOMORROW’S LEADERS

By Amanda E. Swennes

Three CAES students joined more than 500 of their peers to learn about leadership and career development opportunities at the annual Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference, held Nov. 3-6, 2011, in Kansas City, Mo. As part of the University Growth Initiative, Cale Davis, Ben Cleary and Erin Maldonado learned about topics including financial management, industry integrity and resume and interview skills from leading agriculture experts.

“This was a real-world experience for our students to interact personally and professionally with representatives from some of the agricultural industry’s leading employers for job placement and internships and, in exchange, allow our college to showcase our students to some corporations that may not normally get to campus,” said Brice Nelson, CAES student recruitment coordinator.

Founded in 1996, AFA’s mission is to “create partnerships that identify, encourage and support outstanding college men and women preparing for careers in the agriculture and food industry.”

For more information or to apply for a scholarship to the 2012 conference, visit www.agfuture.org.

MODERN HARVEST: COLOMBO NORTH AMERICA DONATES PEANUT COMBINE

By Niki Newberry Coody

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences received a new Double Master III two-row peanut combine donated by Colombo North America of Adel, Ga., during the 2011 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Macon, Ga.

Built specifically for the college, the new combine replaces a 1960s-era Lilliston 1500 and will be used at the OAE C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park in Camilla, Ga. The machine is currently the only new two-row Colombo machine in North America.

“The harvesters of today use more advanced mechanisms to do the separating and threshing, which means we’ve been measuring yields with a very old and non-representative technology,” said Calvin Perry, superintendent at the Stripling Irrigation Research Park. “The new Colombo harvester will upgrade our harvesting ability immensely. We will have a much more reliable machine and it will harvest using modern, advanced technology.”

Special modifications to the combine will enable peanuts from individual plots to be easily diverted into a separate stream for collection, which will make it easier for researchers to analyze the samples collected for yield, quality and other research data, said Bob Shulstad, CAES associate dean for research.

The Colombo Group is the largest Brazilian manufacturer of harvesters for peanuts and edible dry beans and of components such as PTO drive-shafts and mechanisms to do the separating and threshing, which means we’ve been measuring yields with a very old and non-representative technology,” said Calvin Perry, superintendent at the Stripling Irrigation Research Park.

Colombo representatives presented a new peanut harvester to the college during the 2011 Sunbelt Ag Expo in Macon, Ga. Pictured l-r: Joe West, Assistant Dean, UCA Tillton Campus, Hugo Mattoso, Engineer, Colombo Brazil, Luz Henrique Botino, Engineer, Colombo Brazil, Luz Hermo Colombo, President, Colombo Brazil, Scott Angle, CAES Dean and Director, Lisandro Santos, President, Colombo North America, Bob Shulstad, CAES Associate Dean for Research, and Calvin Perry, Ivey Griner and Jay Halmon from the Stripling Irrigation Research Park.

CAES ENROLLMENT DIVERSITY: THEN AND NOW

Compiled by Amanda E. Swennes

From Four Towers

Alumni and Friends,

As I reflect on the University of Georgia and the impact that the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has had on the lives of so many of us, I am grateful that 150 years ago our ancestors had the vision for land-grant colleges. Can you imagine where agriculture and our families would be today without the advances provided through the research, teaching and Extension efforts of land-grant institutions first started by the Morrill Act of 1862?

Just as our ancestors had a vision that made a lasting difference in the lives of others, our CAES alumni are doing the same. The legacy lives on through endowments like the Eternua Fund, which was created by alumni more than 40 years ago to secure the financial future of the CAES Alumni Association, and the establishment in 1972 of the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame that preserves Georgia’s rich agricultural history. Just last year, CAES alumni organized the first of many G-Day tailgate events for the annual spring exhibition football game to bring alumni back to campus, and today our Facebook page reaches alumni of all ages around the world. It is vision that keeps us moving forward.

As you think about your own life and opportunities to impact future generations, I encourage you to consider giving your time and resources through the CAES Alumni Association. From regional gatherings to international travel opportunities, we have many upcoming events that will not only enable you to learn more about what fellow alumni are doing, but also gain insight into the exciting advances being made by CAES every day. If you’d like to learn more, contact Julli Fields in the Office of College Advancement at jfields@uga.edu or visit our website at www.caes.uga.edu/alumni.

I hope you will join me in celebrating our history and looking ahead to the future.

Sincerely,

Megan Howard Morris

Megan Howard Morris
BSA – Ag Communication, ’00

CAES BY THE NUMBERS

Compiled by Amanda E. Swennes

Gender

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SOURCE: CAES Office of Accountability & Organizational Development